



CALIFORNIA ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

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Cal/EPA Releases Green Chemistry Policy Options

Phase 1 Report is Compilation of 818 Policy Options

SACRAMENTO – The California Environmental Protection Agency (Cal/EPA) today released a compilation of policy options to reduce the impacts of toxic chemicals on public health and the environment. The Green Chemistry Phase 1 report is a comprehensive list of options which will be evaluated further this spring.

“The state’s Green Chemistry Initiative will establish a first-of-its-kind comprehensive policy to foster a ‘cradle-to-cradle’ approach which promotes innovation and safer substitutes, creates new jobs and reduces toxic waste,” said Linda Adams, Secretary for Environmental Protection. “California has the opportunity to lead the nation in creating greener products that today’s global markets demand. The report lays the groundwork to begin developing recommendations for the state’s environmental protection initiative on green chemistry.”

Secretary Adams announced the California Green Chemistry Initiative in May 2007, asking Department of Toxic Substances Control (DTSC) Director Maureen Gorsen to lead this groundbreaking effort. To evaluate the options outlined in the Phase 1 report, DTSC will host in-person workshops and web forums.

Key Options for Consideration

The Phase 1 report identifies several key elements from the options submitted by manufacturers, industry, environmental groups, academics, labor organizations, and the public. The following key elements form the basis for each of the policy frameworks to be evaluated this spring: (expanded information on [website](#))

1. Include Green Chemistry principles in the Education and the Environment Initiative.
2. Train a new generation of scientists, engineers, and technical workers.
3. Account for chemical toxicity and impacts in state procurement decisions.
4. Collect accurate and comprehensive chemical information.
5. Disseminate information on toxic chemicals.
6. Empower consumers to make informed choices.

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7. Expand California's pollution prevention program.
8. Strengthen consumer protection laws.
9. Forge strategic international partnerships.

Cal/EPA is now forming interagency teams to begin work on the above key elements. The teams will work concurrently and will also hold public workshops this spring.

New Interactive Approach to Public Policy

Today's report was developed through a new, interactive public process called "*A Conversation with California.*"

"Tools and processes to collect ideas and suggestions for this report resulted in unprecedented stakeholder input nationwide and globally from business and environmental leaders, scientists, policy writers, government officials and the public," explained Maureen Gorsen, DTSC Director who is leading the California Green Chemistry Initiative. "More than 800 options will be considered as we move forward to create a comprehensive strategy to reduce toxic chemicals, energy and waste in manufacturing, goods and products."

To facilitate public participation, DTSC created in-person and web forums to solicit comments, stimulate discussion and guide public policy. Similar to a "wiki" interactive approach, in which participants develop the content, the California Green Chemistry Initiative invited the public worldwide to participate online. More than 57,000 blog hits were received during Phase 1.

For more information on the Green Chemistry Initiative including next steps, please visit: <http://www.dtsc.ca.gov/PollutionPrevention/GreenChemistryInitiative>. To view the web forum, go to <http://californiagreenchemistry.squarespace.com>.

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